

My wife, our children and many of our friends subscribe to and enjoy XM satellite radio. Though it disturbs us to have to pay for radio, the quality of the programming, format options, specialized channels of music and talk and the incredible quality we get is more than worth the cost of what amounts to less than three McDonald's Happy Meals per month. We spend an average of two hours a day in our XM Satellite radio equipped cars, and now the time just seems to fly by. Before XM, listening to the same factory produced assembly line drivel on each radio channel and having to switch stations as many as 8 times just to stay anywhere near the same station or radio genre in a thirty minute one way commute was more hassle than it was worth. Thank Heavens for XM.

Now that XM is meeting our needs, it appears that the non-satellite radio magnates are trying to do whatever they can to stop XM from expanding their programming so they, the old radio buzzards, can still have a carcass to prey on, instead of improving what they offer, and better serving radio listeners. Please stop these buzzards from limiting the access of XM to local traffic and weather information, and facilities involved in the transmission thereof. After all, these buzzards are not paying me or anyone else for the privilege of reporting on my actions or those of my peers, which actions generate the traffic on which they report and from which they earn money. Neither do they generate or in any way generate the weather on which they report. God does that, and I don't believe HE receives any payments from the radio "buzzards".

Please, rather than limit the abilities of XM, you should do all to encourage them. Over the last hundred years, technology has wrought many progressive changes from which we have all benefitted. Vaudeville gave way to radio. Radio gave way to television. Vaudeville, represented by live performances and the stage, are still available to those who wish to avail themselves thereof. Despite TV in all its form, cable, satellite and others, radio still exists in local form. Many there are who will not pay to hear radio. They can be the constituency for the radio buzzards. But the satellite radio providers need to have unrestricted access to all information and facilities to those as well. Do not hinder them. Encourage and support them with all your might.

Sincerely,

Van and Janet Van Vliet